



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

## **News Release**

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**Maureen Gorsen, Director**

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### **California Department of Toxic Substances Control Hosts Green Remediation Symposium**

Sacramento – At a symposium that drew international attention, Department of Toxic Substances Control Director Maureen Gorsen and global environmental experts today called for innovative approaches to incorporate the reduction of greenhouse gases into the process for cleanup of contaminated properties.

The Green Remediation Symposium provided a forum for global perspectives on green remediation. Green remediation is the incorporation of sustainable practices into the cleanup of contaminated sites

“Green clean-ups are key to ensuring the highest level of safety, the protection of public health, and the protection of the environment,” noted Gorsen. “Governor Schwarzenegger is committed to working on and finding solutions to California’s impact on the climate. Today’s forum allowed us to hear international perspectives of green remediation. The Department of Toxic Substances Control is looking at its own climate footprint for cleanups as we change the way we do business.”

As international concern about the effects of global climate change have increased, efforts to encourage sustainable environmental clean-up activities have grown.

The symposium assembled international, federal, state, and local government regulators and redevelopment agencies, environmental clean-up consultants, and academics to discuss green remediation issues.

The symposium covered a wide range of topics including:

- Sustainability and green cleanup.
- New Department of Toxic Substances Control technical guidance, tools, and incentives.
- Climate change and the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Case studies in measurement and assessment techniques.
- Barriers and impediments to implementing green cleanup.

Among the distinguished speakers were international scholars from the United Kingdom, a representative from the Canadian National Railway, and experts from government and industry.

- More -

Environmental and industry leaders praised the symposium for its proactive nature and the inclusion of global perspectives. “The Green Remediation Symposium is a step in the right direction. It provides an opportunity for environmental leaders to start a dialogue about green remediation and the opportunity to offer input to the Department of Toxic Substances Control’s technical guidance documents,” said U.S. EPA Region IX Superfund and Technology Liaison Mike Gill.

The symposium allowed stakeholders to hear about new and successful approaches to green cleanup technologies, remedies, and site investigations and to engage with leaders throughout the world about how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make greener decisions about cleanup sites.”

The symposium was co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, and the California Groundwater Resources Association.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

***The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to protect public health, safety, and the environment from toxic harm.***